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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-11 AF-10 NEA-11 IO-14 FEA-02

INT-08 SCI-06 ACDA-19 COME-00 SAJ-01 FRB-02 CIEP-02

CEA-02 STR-08 DRC-01 /201 W
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6271

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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USMISSION NATO

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 1930

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, FR

SUBJECT: JOBERT ADDRESSES THE GAULLISTS

REF: PARIS 0667

POUCHED TO AMCONSULATES BORDEAUX, LYON, MARSEILLE, MARTINIQUE,
NICE, STRASBOURG

1. SUMMARY. AS GUEST SPEAKER AT JANUARY 21 DINNER OF
UDR POLITICAL CLUB "NOUVELLE FRONTIERE", FOREIGN MINISTER
MICHEL JOBERT REVEALED NOTHING NEW ABOUT FRENCH FOREIGN
POLICY, RARELY ANSWERED A QUESTION, BUT DELIGHTED HIS
AUDIENCE OF PRESS, MAJORITY PARTY WORKERS, CIVIL SERVANTS
AND BUSINESSMEN. DESPITE POINTED QUESTIONS RELATED TO GOF DE-
CISION TO LET FRANC FLOAT, JOBERT WAS CLEARLY MASTER OF
THE SITUATION AND SUCCEEDED IN DEMONSTRATING TO AN IMPORTANT
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CROSS SECTION OF "LA CLASSE POLITIQUE" THAT THE INSRUTABLE

EX-SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ELYSEE IS A "POLITICAL" PERSONALITY TO BE RECKONED WITH. DESPITE PASSING REFERENCES TO SUPERPOWERS' INFLUENCE IN WORLD AFFAIRS AND TO US-SOVIET NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION AGREEMENT, HE WAS GENERALLY FRIENDLY AND POSITIVE IN HIS REMARKS ABOUT THE US. HIGHLIGHTS FOLLOW. END SUMMARY.

2. MIDDLE EAST. REFERRING TO HIS LATE JANUARY TRIP TO SAUDI-ARABIA, KUWAIT AND SYRIA, JOBERT SAID HE HAD BEEN THINKING ABOUT VISITING THESE COUNTRIES SINCE AT LEAST MAY. HIS GOAL IS "LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT" ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN EUROPE, THE NEAR EAST AND AFRICA AND "NOT TO CONCLUDE ARMS-FOR-OIL BARTER DEALS."

3. MILITARY SALES. SPEAKING OF ARMS DELIVERIES, JOBERT IRONICALLY NOTED THAT "WHEN FRANCE DISCUSSES ARMS SALES WITH SUCH COUNTRIES (MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA), IT IS A SCANDAL....BECAUSE FRANCE RISKS TAKING A PLACE ALREADY OCCUPIED. THERE ARE TWO PRIVILEGED SUPPLIERS OF ARMS. ONE NEVER SPEAKS OF THEM, BUT WHEN FRANCE RESPONDS TO REQUESTS FOR ARMS DELIVERIES, THERE IS ASTONISHMENT AND CRITICISM. OF COURSE, THERE IS OIL. HOW COULD ONE NOT CONCLUDE AGREEMENTS WHEN THE PRODUCING COUNTRIES HAVE RECOVERED THE FREE DISPOSITION OF THEIR OIL? THERE IS THEREFORE OIL ON THE MARKET, AND IF THERE ARE COUNTRIES WHO WISH TO CONCLUDE STATE TO STATE AGREEMENTS, WHY NOT?"

4. WORLD ENERGY CONFERENCE. WITH THIS PROPOSAL SUBMITTED TO UN SEC GEN WALDHEIM, JOBERT SAID FRANCE "WISHED TO MARK ITS SPECIFIC INTENTION - WHEN DEALING WITH THE QUESTION OF RAW MATERIALS - NOT TO SEPARATE THE PRODUCER COUNTRIES FROM THE CONSUMER COUNTRIES, AND ESPECIALLY THOSE CONSUMERS WHO HAVE REAL DIFFICULTIES AND WHO ARE EXPERIENCING THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE RISE IN OIL PRICE." RE WASHINGTON FEB. 11 MEETING, JOBERT SAID GOF HAS NOT YET DECIDED WHETHER TO ATTEND, ADDING, THERE REMAINS SUFFICIENT TIME TO WEIGH DECISION CAREFULLY.

5. FRANC FLOAT. RE DECISION TO FLOAT, JOBERT SAID THERE IS NO OTHER WAY TO CONFRONT THE OIL PRICE RISE, AND PROBABLY ALSO

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THE RISE IN PRICE OF OTHER RAW MATERIALS. JOBERT SAID FLOAT DECISION WOULD NOT BLOCK EUROPEAN UNION. "THIS UNION IS MORE THAN AGREEMENTS ON CURRENCY PARITIES. THERE IS THE REGIONAL FUND, FISCAL POLICY, THE ECONOMY, CAPITAL MOVEMENTS, ETC."

6. FRANCE'S ALLIANCES. ASKED WHETHER IN THE WAKE OF DECISION TO FLOAT, FRANCE HAD ANY ALLIANCES LEFT, JOBERT SAID THAT THE

BASIC ALLIANCE REMAINS THAT OF THE NINE. "BUT THERE IS ALSO THE OLD AMERICAN ALLIANCE....EUROPE WILL NOT CONSTRUCT ITSELF AGAINST THE US. IF EUROPE APPEARS TO SOME TO BE DOING SO, ULTERIOR MOTIVES ARE BEING ASCRIBED TO IT WHICH DO NOT EXIST." JOBERT WENT ON TO DESCRIBE IN WARM TERMS RELATIONSHIP WITH US AS ALSO A FUNDAMENTAL ALLIANCE. HE SAID THAT IF THE US WILL ACCEPT - "IN A SPIRIT OF TOLERANCE, CONSULTATION AND FRIENDSHIP" - THAT FRANCE HAS ITS OWN INTERESTS AND THAT THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY HAS MORE THAN REGIONAL INTERESTS, THEN THE CLOSEST COOPERATION AMONG ALLIES IS POSSIBLE, BASED ON "A COMMON CIVILIZATION AND FOLLOWING A COMMON PATH."

7. COMMENT - WITH HIS CUSTOMARY AGILITY, JOBERT SIDE-STEPPED QUESTIONS DESIGNED TO ELICIT EVIDENCE OF POLITICAL AMBITION, BUT HE DID NOT REFUTE OSERVATIONS OF UDR QUESTIONERS THAT HIS FOREIGN POLICY IS IN THE "GAULLIAN LINE" OF THE FIFTH REPUBLIC. HE DESCRIBED HIMSELF AS A MODEST PATRIOTIC SERVANT OF FRANCE WHOSE ONLY FAULT IS THAT HE "LOVES HIS LITTLE COUNTRY", AND ADDED THAT HE WOULD CONTINUE TO DO HIS BEST TO DEFEND FRANCE'S INTERNATIONAL INTERESTS. WITH HIS COMMAND OF POLICY ISSUES, WHIMSEY, GIFT FOR TALKING ELEGANT NONSENSE, JOBERT RARELY ANSWERED A QUESTION, WHILE NEVERTHELESS APPEARING TO HAVE SAID SOMETHING OF GREAT IMPORT. HE FREQUENTLY ASKED HIS STUNNED INTERLOCUTOR WHETHER HE HAD ANSWERED HIS QUESTION SUFFICIENTLY. IN SUM, IT WAS A MASTERFUL PERFORMANCE AND REPRESENTED ANOTHER STEP IN THE PROCESS OF GIVING A MORE HUMAN AND POLITICAL VISAGE TO FRANCE'S SECRETIVE FOREIGN MINISTER. STONE

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